

City of Columbus Releases Annual Sewer Overflow Report ***One Sanitary Sewer Overflow Location Removed in 2009***

(Columbus) – The Columbus Department of Public Utilities continued to make progress on reducing sanitary sewer overflow locations and water-in-basement occurrences in 2009 through ongoing capital improvement projects and preventive maintenance programs. The results are contained in the 2009 City of Columbus Sanitary Sewer Overflow and Water in Basement Report, which was recently completed and submitted to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Consent order agreements between the city and state require the report to be filed annually with the agency. The city also has improvements underway to reduce overflows from heavy storms in older areas built with combined sewers through the 40-year, \$2.5 billion Wet Weather Management Plan, which was recently approved by the OEPA and began in 2005.

Highlights of accomplishments during 2009 include:

- One sanitary sewer overflow discharge location was removed in the Alum Creek watershed, along Winslow Drive. Four additional locations have been mitigated to reduce the potential for future overflows.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage provided backflow prevention devices to 72 Columbus homes at a cost of approximately \$366,000 under the Project Dry Basement program, launched by Mayor Michael B. Coleman in 2004.
- As part of a continuing preventive maintenance cleaning program launched in 2005, 29 sewersheds have been completed and cleaning in 18 others are in progress.

“We continue to make progress in the Wet Weather Management Plan, and remain committed to reducing overflows in a fiscally and environmentally responsible way while doing all we can to keep rates affordable,” said Director Tatyana Arsh.”

The report is available to the public on the Department of Public Utilities’ web site at: www.utilities.columbus.gov under the Project Clean Rivers area; or go directly to the report at utilities.columbus.gov/dosd/pdfs/2009SSO-WIBReport.pdf. Print copies are also available by request.

To report any suspected sewer overflows or other sewer related issues, Columbus residents should call 311 or 645-3111.